

Subject: Important Reminder to Follow Safety and Compliance Protocols

Good afternoon,

Because I know that our research community is committed to helping, learning and advancing knowledge, I write today to share some important reminders. In our efforts to learn more about SARS-CoV-2, we need to remember to follow safety and compliance protocols in order to keep each other and our community safe as we work together to understand and mitigate the spread of this virus.

The Northeastern Biosafety Office is here to support your research and can be reached at biosafety@northeastern.edu. If you plan to work with inactivated SARS-CoV-2, here are the steps you need to take:

1. Any intended research with inactivated SARS-CoV-2 and its products must be communicated to the Biosafety Office prior to initiating any project work or procuring any materials.
2. The Biosafety Office at EH&S needs to be contacted so they can provide assistance to the Principal Investigator regarding the requirements for procuring the materials, transporting them, storing them, how to use and dispose of them safely. In certain cases, an MTA may be necessary for the transfer of these materials.
3. All work with inactivated SARS-CoV-2 must be registered with the Biosafety Office through BioRaft and no work with inactivated SARS-CoV-2 or the viral products can be done prior to approval by the IBC.
4. The registration should address where the samples will be coming from; how the viruses will be inactivated prior to being shipped to campus; how the samples will be transported to campus (or if used in more than one site, how samples will be transported across campus); whether the samples will be shared with any other PI; how the used samples will be disposed of, and what are the minimum training requirements for personnel working with the samples. It is the responsibility of the PI or a qualified delegate to develop and deliver this training.
5. In regard to the necessary training, this includes the need for specific protocols and training on how to handle inactivated SARS-CoV-2 samples and properly dispose of them after being used.
6. No work with live SARS-CoV-2 is currently permitted at NU, as this work can only be performed in a BSL3 facility, which the University currently does not have.
7. For any transfer of SARS-CoV-2 and its products (between LSTC, other NU PI's or external Institutions), the Biosafety Office must be contacted prior to initiating the transfer. Under no circumstances should anyone use their personal vehicle to transport inactivated SARS-CoV-2 samples or swabs that have been used in testing.

The Biosafety Office team looks forward to providing you with the assistance needed to facilitate safe and compliant work being done in our labs across Northeastern.

Thank you for your attention to these important procedures.

David Luzzi